

Mutton Growing a Profitable Industry for Farmers.

After the exhaustive and conclusive series of articles on "Profitable Sheep Raising in the South," contributed to The Progressive Farmer by Mr. Samuel Archer, it ought not to be necessary to refer often to the subject in our columns. We do find, however, in the current number of Wallace's Farmer so strong an argument in behalf of enlarged sheep flocks that we cannot afford to pass it by. Says Dr. Wallace:

"Blessed is the man that has a flock of mutton sheep, and knows how to take care of them. They are sure money-makers; just as sure as Government bonds or first-class railroad bonds, and paying three or four times the interest. The farmer who through evil report and good report has held on to the sheep, not becoming scared at any temporary depression or threat of tariff removal, or anything else, has made good money right along, and will make more money than ever in the future. His farm is comparatively free from weeds wherever the sheep can graze, and his land is constantly growing richer.

"Why do we prophesy better returns in the future? Because, first, there has been a wonderful decrease in the Australian flocks, from whence has come our main supply of fine wool in years past.

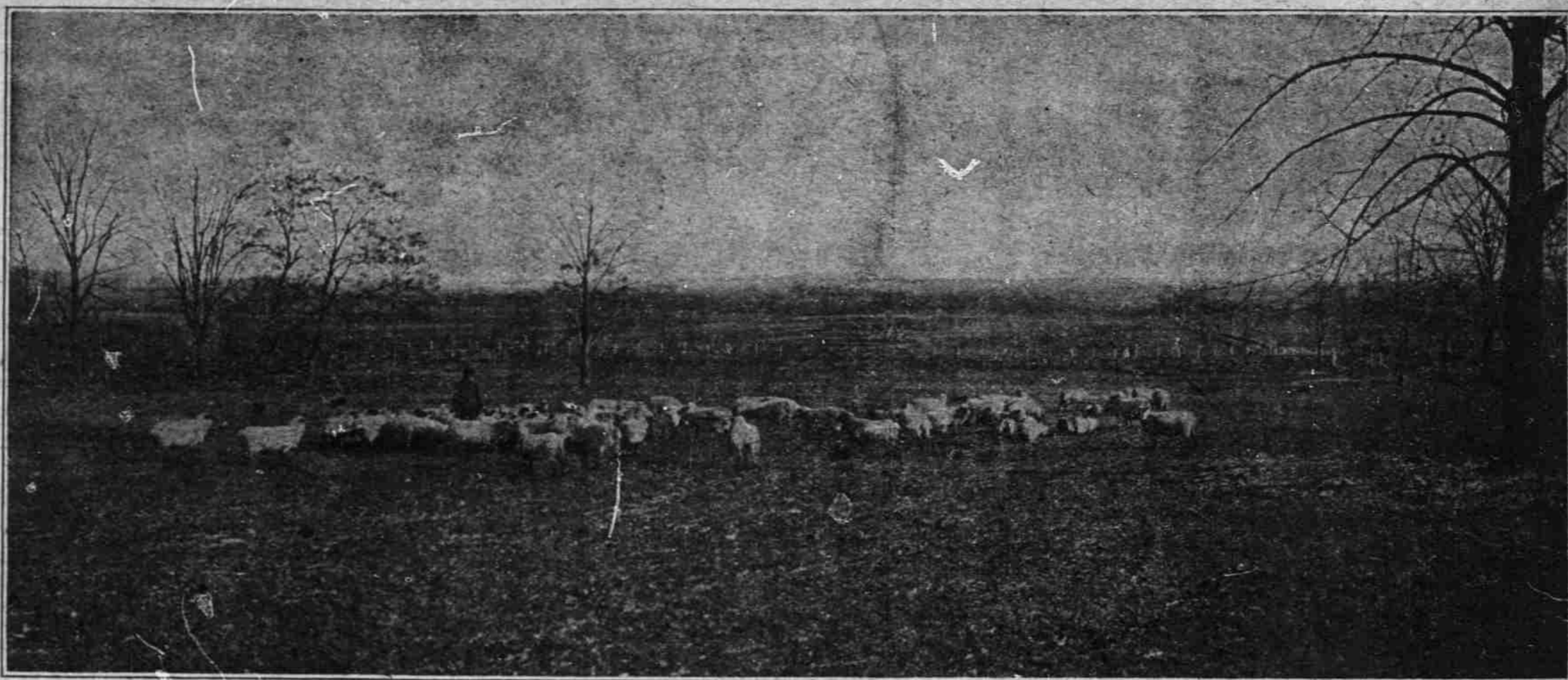
"Second, because there has been, and will continue to be, a decrease in the available area for sheep grazing on the ranges; partly because of the appropriation of large tracts of territory for Government reservations and for irrigation purposes, partly because the sheep eat out the native grasses which cannot be readily restored, and partly because of the innovation of the nester, or homesteader, and the out and out purchase of railroad lands for cattle growing purposes. This condition of things is permanent.

"Third, because there has been a decided increase in the demand for mutton, which in turn has been the result of the introduction of the mutton sheep. It is popular to eat mutton now. It was not a few years ago. This condition, too, is permanent.

"In addition to all this there has been a decrease in the sheep population of Great Britain and also of the Continent, so that in time to come America must be depended upon to furnish a still larger amount of the prime mutton to the mutton eaters of the Old World. The feeding of sheep has been very profitable in the years past so that there has been a demand for immense numbers of lambs from New Mexico and other mutton growing districts.

"The decrease in the acreage that can be devoted to sheep husbandry will shorten very greatly the supply of feeders and the time will come, and that soon, when the Iowa and Nebraska feeder will have to either grow his own lambs or purchase them from neighbors who do grow them, for this reason, that the great advance in the price of wool and the eager inquiry and offers to contract for next year's clip and the rapid advance of fine wool the world over will cause, and is causing, many ranchmen to resort to fine wool bucks in order to improve the quality of their wool. This will at the same time decrease the mutton quality so that it will not be possible when this movement is fully under way and its effects are clearly visible to buy sheep of the mutton type for feeders in the corn and grass States.

"We, therefore, urge our readers who have mutton flocks to hold on to them and to increase them



FLOCK OF SOUTHDOWN SHEEP IN VIRGINIA, ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

up to one hundred head on each quarter section of land. Do not get the fine wool craze. The Rambouillet, however, are not objectionable; in fact, there is one strong point in their favor, that they are not so affected with the stomach worms. Use in your flocks either Southdown, Cotswold, Hampshire or Oxford rams. Keep your flock in good shape, and you will make money by it.

"We have for nearly twenty years been urging farmers to fence their farms sheep-tight and begin with a flock of twenty-five head of ewes, thus cleaning up what would otherwise go to waste, making mutton out of weeds, and enriching their farms. It would seem to us that all these years we have been talking to deaf ears. We have regarded this as the soundest kind of agricultural teaching, and have wondered why it has produced so little effect. The time will come, and is coming, when farmers will realize the soundness of this advice, profit by it, and wonder why they did not profit by it a long time ago.

"The causes that have led to the present strong demand for mutton and wool are for the most part permanent. We earnestly urge every farmer who can afford to put up the right kind of fences, and shows any indication of sheep sense, to invest as soon as possible in a flock of twenty-five good mutton ewes, mate them with a buck of the breeds above-mentioned, and make some good money. If the farmer will not do it, let the boy take it up. The boy can make money on sheep even if the old man cannot."

A Few "Don'ts" for the Poultry Raiser.

Messrs Editors:—Although this is a queer heading for an article, I believe that a little advice along this line will be beneficial to many. In the first place, we will consider the yearling, or we might say, the molting hens. It is very essential that you—

Don't forget to furnish them with plenty of feather-growing food, if you wish your fowls to pass through the molting season in the shortest possible time. Green cut bone, sunflower seed, linseed meal and clover are excellent for this purpose.

Don't keep hens which commence to molt after October 15th or November 7th, no way, unless they are valuable specimens. If you do you will be out the cost of their food until they commence to lay in March.

Don't think because your fowls are not laying very well just now that is an economy to cut down their feed supply and lessen the care you have given them. If you do this you will be sorry next winter.

Don't keep cocks or cockerels with hens during the molting season. Both sexes are better off by themselves.

Don't forget to spray the roosts and nests every

other week with some good lice killer. Kerosene oil is all right, but it should be used every other day, at least, as it is not very lasting.

If you forget all the above, don't forget to give your poultry houses a thorough cleaning. Disinfect by burning sulphur for two or three hours and give the interior a thorough white-washing. Hens like a house that is white inside far better than one lined with black paper. If you use black paper on the outside, use it under the clapboards. Some fine day this month is a good time to gather some leaves to use on the floor of your house next winter for litter. You will find that it will pay to do this.

If your hen-house roof leaks, or if the windows are broken out, don't forget to repair them before the winter gets too cold, or you may have a few cases of roup on your hands.

Don't let your "don'ts" stock will not be out of place. In the first place, don't let cockerels and pullets run together unless you wish to lose money and time. Both will mature earlier if kept separated.

Don't feed the cockerels the same as you feed the cockerels which you are preparing for market. The pullets need less corn and more wheat and oats.

Don't keep pullets confined in a small yard all the time. Let them out for two hours at night and note the improvement they make.

Don't force one hundred pullets to roost where there is room for only fifty, unless you wish them to have roup.

Don't let these terrible mites get a foot-hold in your coops or you will lose your summer's profit.

Last, but not least, don't neglect to give all the fowls an abundance of grit, shells, charcoal and fresh water every day, and don't fail to lay in a supply of cabbage, beets, turnips and small potatoes to cook for the fowls during the winter.

A FARMER.

Cleveland Co., N. C.

Dairy Experiments.

The Kansas State Agricultural College Experiment Station, located at Manhattan, has just issued Bulletin No. 125, "Experiments with Dairy Cows." This is an extensive publication, giving experiments, some of which have extended over three or four years' time and touch upon nearly every phase of the dairy industry. Among the experiments recorded are some with ordinary grade cows, some with grade cows selected for their dairy points, and others with pure-bred animals. Experiments are also described in feeding cows, both in the stable and on pasture. Much information is given concerning testing milk and the conditions which cause variation in the results. This bulletin, like all the others of the Station, will be sent free of charge to any farmer applying for it.